

The recent researches have increased the number of Woodpeckers of the genus *Centurus* occurring within the limits of the United States to three in number:—(1) *C. carolinus*, of the Eastern States; (2) *C. uropygialis*, Baird, lately discovered by the Naturalists attached to Lieut. Whipple's expedition in New Mexico; and (3) *C. flaviventris*, Sw., which seems to be by no means uncommon in Texas, and is apparently quite distinct from *C. santaeruzi*, Bp., with which it is often considered synonymous.

There is a very fine series of specimens of the genus *Coua* in the Philadelphian collection representing every species mentioned in Prince Bonaparte's 'Conspectus,' except *C. madagascariensis*. *Coua ruficeps* is by no means the same as *C. reynaudi*, as is there made out, but is a species more like *C. cristata* with a white throat and violaceous breast from Zanzibar, while *C. reynaudi* is from Madagascar.

Certain European Naturalists appear to me to have been much too hasty in condemning the new *Grus hoyiana* lately described by Mr. Dudley in the 'Proceedings of the Philadelphian Academy.' Judging from the examples in the collection of that Institution, I venture to pronounce it an excellent species, and not the young of *Grus americana*, as Dr. Hartlaub has endeavoured to prove (Journ. f. Orn. 1855, p. 336). It would seem, however, that this bird is really a Western species from Oregon and Washington territory, and only accidentally present in Wisconsin, where it was first met with by Mr. Dudley.

2. ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE PELVIS OF CHLAMYPHORUS TRUNCATUS. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., V.P. ENT. SOC., ETC.

Sir Woodbine Parish having, after considerable trouble, at length been able to procure a second specimen of this extraordinary and most interesting animal, has kindly transmitted it to the British Museum.

The specimen had been eviscerated and simply dried in the sun, was destitute of any fur, and did not afford any means of distinguishing its sex.

The Museum already possessed the well-preserved specimen formerly procured by Sir Woodbine Parish, and the imperfect skeleton of it so well described and figured by my late excellent friend Mr. Yarrell in the Zoological Journal, vol. iii. p. 544. t. 16.

In the specimen of the skeleton figured and described by Mr. Yarrell, the bones of the pelvis were separated to preserve the outer covering entire; the "bones being cut through as near to and as parallel with the inner surface of the plates as their confined situation would admit," p. 546.

This description did not in the least prepare me for the extraordinary structure which was discovered when the flesh was removed.

The truncated, posterior disk or shield is firmly attached to the

pelvis by four (or two pairs of) posterior processes, and in the central line by the elongated ridges of the posterior sacral vertebra, so as to be immovably fixed to the pelvis. The posterior disk is thick, rather

Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

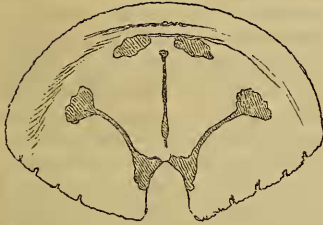


Fig. 3.

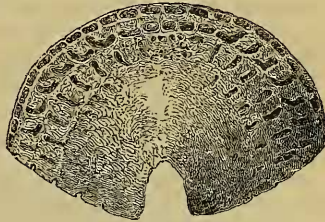


Fig. 1. Side view of the pelvis, with the inside of the attached posterior disk.

Fig. 2. The inside of the posterior disk, showing the position of the places of attachment.

Fig. 3. The outer side of the posterior disk, showing the form and position of the perforations.

solid, and furnished with a marginal series of oblong perforations, having a second series of similar but smaller perforations within them in the centre, and two series of much elongated curved slits on each side, near the margin, as in the figure.

Professor Owen informs me that a somewhat similar adhesion of the skeleton to the dermal system is to be observed in the *Glyptodon*, and also in some of the fossil Armadilloes of the older strata.

3. ON THE PRESENCE OR ABSENCE OF AIR IN THE BONES OF BIRDS. BY EDWARDS CRISP, M.D.

As one of the objects of the founders of this Society, as expressed by the Charter, was the cultivation of Physiology, and as our communications of late, upon this subject, have been rather scanty, I am induced to submit this paper to the notice of the members, and I do so with a hope that it may serve to dispel one of the many errors that unfortunately encumber the science of Zoology.

My attention was first especially directed to the investigation of